

**U.S. Department of Justice**

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*Eastern District of Virginia*

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**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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NORFOLK, VIRGINIA**

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Van Robala Garrett, age 39, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, was sentenced today by Judge Rebecca B. Smith to 18 months imprisonment and ordered to pay \$19,358.84 in restitution.

Garrett pled guilty on March 19, 2004 to count one of a thirty-nine count indictment charging him with unauthorized use of an access device.

Garrett owned and operated Total Electrical Sales, Inc. located in Virginia Beach. Through Total Electrical Sales, Inc. he made contract sales of merchandise to the U.S. Navy through the Navy Purchase Card Program. Once he had obtained the credit card number for an individual Navy contracting officer, he used the number to obtain money as if he had made additional sales to the Navy, when in fact, he had not. The transactions were made by typing the access information, the credit card number and expiration date, as well as the amount to be charged, into a credit card terminal which caused a debit to be made to the individual contracting officer's account and a credit to be deposited into his business account. In total, he attempted to make \$153,671.16 in this manner. Due to review of the credit card account statements, many of these credit transactions were disputed and reimbursed.

The investigation of this case was conducted by Naval Criminal Investigative Service as a result of a recent crack down by the Navy to control the unauthorized use of its government credit cards. Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen Haynie handled the case for the United States Attorney's Office.

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